

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /064 W  
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R 211337Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516

SECDEF WASHDC

OSAF/I&L WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS NL

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT PLANNED SCHEDULE FOR DUTCH  
ACTIVITIES

1. MAAG HAS OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES  
PLANNED WITHIN THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT LEADING TO THE DECISION  
FOR THE SELECTION OF THE 104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT.

MARCH 24-DUTCH AND BELGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE WILL MEET  
TO ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON DECISION.

MARCH 25- MOD'S OF BOTH COUNTRIES WILL MEET WITH  
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REVIEW AND  
SEEK THEIR APPROVAL.

APRIL 3- 4-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM MOD'S WILL CONVENE TO  
SEEK A UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT. IT IS EXPECTED  
THAT ONLY A STATEMENT OF JOINT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL  
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WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS DATE.

BETWEEN 3-9 APRIL EACH COUNTRY WILL SEEK RESPECTIVE  
GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

APRIL 9-EXPECT 4-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
AIRCRAFT SELECTION.

2. SOURCE REPORTED THAT IF BELGIAN AND DUTCH DELEGATION  
DOES NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON 25 MARCH, DUTCH MOD HAS MADE  
PRELIMINARY PLANS TO MEET WITH HIS CABINET TO DISCUSS A  
3-NATION PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, RATIONALE IS NOW BEING  
DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT SUCH A PROGRAM DECISION. AT THIS MOMENT  
DUTCH COSTS ANALYSIS INDICATE THAT F-16 IS CONSIDERABLY MORE  
ECONOMICAL THAN F1/M53 OVER A 10 YEAR PERIOD.

3. THE 19 MARCH MEETING OF BELGIAN AND DUTCH FINANCIAL  
EXPERTS AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES, CONCLUDED WITH A FULL  
UNDERSTANDING OF DUTCH LOGIC IN PROJECTING COSTS. FRENCH  
THEN ASKED FOR TIME TO REVIEW DUTCH ANALYSIS AND PRESENT  
FRENCH VIEWS AND/OR RESTRUCTURE THEIR PROPOSAL. THIS  
MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 21 MARCH IN BRUSSELS.

4. COMMENT. CONFIDENTIAL COMMENTS BY EMBASSY'S LABOR PARTY  
SOURCES AS WELL AS PRINCE DEN UYL'S RECENT REMARKS TO THE  
PRESS RAISE SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER GON WILL FIND  
IT EXPEDIENT TO ANNOUNCE FINAL DECISION ON F-104 REPLACEMENT  
BEFORE IMPORTANT LABOR PARTY CONGRESS APRIL 10-12.  
GOULD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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